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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/436,725	11/09/1999	WILLIAM G. HARLESS	02389.0006-0	7061

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EXAMINER

PHAN, THAI Q

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2123

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2003

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/436,725

Applicant(s)
Harless et al.

Examiner
Thai Phan

Art Unit
2123



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 20, 2003
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is response to applicants' amendment filed on May 20, 2003.

Claims 1-19 are pending in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harless, William, US patent no. 5,006,987, in view of Bernstein, Jared, US patent no. 6,157,913.

As per claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-13, 15, and 18 Harless discloses method and system for providing an interactive simulated dialogue with feature limitations substantially similar to the claimed invention. According to Harless, the interactive simulated dialogue system includes a simulated dialogue program, a vocabulary set for selected simulation program, user voice input means, means for generating response to user input voice, output means for outputting an audiovisual representation of a human being speaking the response, and means for processing simulated dialogue program as claimed. Harless does not expressly disclose a network and network connection for interactive system as claimed. Such feature limitation is however known in the art. In fact, Bernstein teaches method and system for processing user input commands and

interactive video response to the user command in a computer network (col. 2, lines 36-60, col. 4, lines 18-49, col. 9, lines 17-40, col. 10, lines 22-38) for emulated aspect of audio/video interaction as suggested col. 1, lines 49-60.

This reason would motivate practitioner in the art at the time of the invention was made to combine Bernstein teaching of emulated interaction of user response in a computer network into Harless interactive simulated dialogue system to simulate user audio and video interactive over a computer network.

As per claim 2, Bernstein teaches a plurality of network nodes.

As per claim 5, Harless and Bernstein disclose means or agent for processing speech recognition in compatible with simulated dialogue program.

As per claim 6, Bernstein teaches speech recognition engine in computer network nodes as claimed.

As per claim 9, Harless and Bernstein disclose voice buffer for speech processing.

As per claim 14, Bernstein teaches a plurality of user nodes in participation of the process.

As per claims 16, 17, and 19, Bernstein teaches a computer network with speech recognition in each node and video interaction, and transmitting video response over the network in the emulated interaction as claimed.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

1. US patent no. 6,385,584 B1, issued to McAllister et al., on May 2002

2. US patent application publication no. US 2002/0054088 A1, issued to Tanskanen et al., on May 2002.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Phan whose telephone number is (703) 305-3812.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Application/Control Number: 09/436,725
Art Unit: 2123

Page 5

Or:

(703) 746-7240 (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal
Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

August 7, 2003

Thaiphon
Patent Examiner
Thai Phan
AU 2123